

MEMBERS PRESENT

(attending by Webinar)

Ms. Kristine Herman
HFS

Dr. Robert Bloom
Gubernatorial Appointee

Dr. Kathy Briseno
Legislative Designee

Mr. Matt George
Legislative Designee

Dr. Seth Harkins
Legislative Designee

Ms. Judith Levitan
OAG

Ms. Carie Johnstone
Legislative Designee

Ms. Abbey Storey
ISBE

Ms. Alicia Ozier
DCFS

Mr. Neal Takiff
Gubernatorial Appointee

Dr. Cesar Madrigal
Gubernatorial Appointee

Dr. Constance Y. Williams
DHS/DMH

Mr. Mark Smith
DJJ

Dr. Andrew Beaty
Gubernatorial Appointee

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Julie Stremmlau
DHS/DFCS

Mr. Merlin Lehman
Gubernatorial Appointee

Ms. Michelle Scott-Terven
DHS/DRS

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Nancy Aguirre
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Kristin Gharst
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Juli Kartel
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Lynn Lowder Coffey
Operations Manager

Ms. Mindy Monti
Office Manager

Ms. Debbi Smith
Executive Director

Mr. Robert Watts
Regional Coordinator

LIAISONS PRESENT

None

GUESTS

Ms. Michelle Churchey-Mims
CHBA

Mr. Matt Cohen

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Chairperson Bloom.

II. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2021 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting with no revisions.

MOTION: *Dr. Seth Harkins moved and Ms. Carie Johnstone seconded that the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Authority meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Smith submitted an unintended consequences document, regarding youth in detention being eligible to apply for the FSP, and submitted it to HFS on 12/16 as per direction from the board at our December meeting. Ms. Lowder and Ms. Smith are watching JCAR for the upcoming rule change for rule 139 FSP so CRSA can comment to advocate changing the rule back to the way it read in the old ICG rule 135.
- Ms. Smith reported that she sits on a subcommittee formed by the NB Implementation Committee to address Illinois's significant problem with a lack of licensed clinicians willing to work in community mental health centers and behavioral health clinics. These positions are underpaid, and the work is very stressful. Training paraprofessional staff to intervene with youth and their families using evidence-based methods would significantly strengthen and extend the current child mental health workforce. The committee's goal has been to recommend to HFS ways to enhance, expand, and improve the workforce of non-licensed mental health workers to become credentialed to more effectively intervene with children and families, with or at-risk for behavioral or emotional difficulties. The committee presented recommendations to the HFS NB Committee on March 29th. Thanks to board members who shared the recent survey that committee generated, to relevant providers. Copies of that survey are available to anyone who wants a copy. Email me.
- Detained youth getting access to admission to psychiatric hospitals has been the focus of another committee that Director Smith announced to the board in December and February, at the request of Kane County providers. On April 6th, we were able to assist in getting participants for a rather large group of professionals together to discuss this topic. Neal Takiff, Mark Smith and I joined juvenile detention providers, mental health administrators, Senator Villa, and the Illinois Administrative Courts and CBHA. We will be meeting again at the end of April. Tentatively set for April 27th at 9:00. They requested a presence from DCFS and HFS at the next meeting if possible. The following board members in December, stated they would like to participate on a committee to address this issue: Mr. Mark Smith-DJJ, Mr. Neal Takiff JD-Gubernatorial Appointee, Mr. Robert Williams-HFS, Ms. Alicia Ozier-DCFS, Ms. Carie Johnstone-Legislative Designee, and Public participant Ms. Michelle Churchy-Mims-CBHA.

- As shared in previous meetings, Mindy Monti, our Office Manager, will be leaving CRSA sometime in late June. Mindy's leaving causes a loss in institutional knowledge about organizing staff, managing our office procedures and assisting the board through the years. Because our vision is for CRSA to remain consistent in our operations we reached out to Mr. Matt George, our board member who has helped us so much in the past, for advice. CRSA administration met to seek his expertise with transition and organizational excellence and advice on succession plans. As a result, a plan was developed to pay particular attention to every detail of Ms. Monti's daily, weekly, monthly and yearly duties and developed a training calendar for her replacement. CRSA advertised several weeks ago and were able to hire Ms. Leah Guffey last week. Leah will start May 1st and job shadow Mindy for the Months of May and June.

IV. OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORTED

TRAININGS:

All staff and most board members have completed the required trainings for calendar year 2021. Ms. Lowder is working with the Division of Information and Technology (DoIT) to help board members who are unable to log on through One Net.

BUDGET UPDATE:

Ms. Smith and Ms. Lowder presented to the House Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriation Committee on Monday, March 29th. The committee was chaired by Representative Will Davis and Republican Spokes Person: Representative Thomas Bennett. CRSA requested they approve the Governor's recommendation of \$650,000 which is what the allocation was last year. This amount will allow us to continue to improve the lives of some of the most at-risk children in Illinois. Several good questions regarding our services, outreach and diversity were asked. Ms. Lowder followed up on a request by Representative Davis to reach out to the Northern, Southern and Western Intermediate Service Centers (ISC) which is the same as ROE's in Cook County. The ISC's shared CRSA information with others in their community including:

- Epilepsy Foundation Greater Chicago which serves 44 counties (Linda Prewitt and Robert Watts will present at their monthly Caregiver Education Hour in April)
- Student Services Network which services the 39 North Cook school districts (Nancy Aguirre presenting in June)
- Superintendents of Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization, Niles Township District for Special Education, and Northern Suburban Special Education District

Ms. Lowder will be following up with Representative Davis after their spring break with answers to his diversity questions and an update on our recent outreach.

CRSA BOARD APPOINTMENT UPDATE:

Ms. Lowder contacted Senator Sue Rezin about the reappointment of board member Matt George and she has agreed.

Ms. Lowder also reached out to Senator Christopher Belk with information about CRSA and requested the reappointment of Ms. Carie Johnstone.

CRSA still has one Gubernatorial Appointee Vacancy if anyone has any recommendations:

“Six persons appointed by the Governor for terms of four years. Appointees shall be representative of both the private and public sectors with no more than two of the appointees from the public sector and at least two must be or have been directly involved in provision of service to such individuals. The remaining appointee shall be or have been a parent of an individual with a behavior disorder or severe emotional disturbance.”

LEGISLATION:

CRSA is currently following 69 house bills, 33 senate bills and 4 resolutions. The topics include:

- Children’s Mental Health and Welfare
- Special Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Disability Services
- Behavioral Mental Health
- Teenage Suicide
- Autism
- School Discipline
- Crisis Stabilization
- Time Out & Restraint
- Teen Mental Health Support

Seclusion and Restraint HB 219: *Amends the School Code. Makes changes concerning the adoption of rules by the State Board of Education governing time out and physical restraint in the public schools. Subject to appropriation, requires the State Board to create a grant program for school districts and special education cooperatives and charter schools to implement school-wide, culturally sensitive, and trauma-informed practices, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and restorative practices. Allows the State Board to contract with a third party to provide assistance with oversight and monitoring, and requires the State Board to establish reduction goals and a system of ongoing review, auditing, and monitoring. Makes changes in provisions concerning a school board's use of time out and physical restraint, including providing that isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint may be used only under certain circumstances, prohibiting the deprivation of necessities and prone, mechanical, and chemical restraint, and requiring a meeting with school personnel if requested by the parent or guardian, the provision of information to parents and guardians, and written procedures. Effective immediately.* **HB 219 Update:** Senator Carroll spoke to the committee regarding HB 219. He stated in the last two weeks they were able to agree to language changes that satisfied everyone's concerns. House Amendment 001 still needs a few minor revisions, but he asked the committee to move the bill to 2nd Reading with the agreement he will bring the revised amendment back after

spring break. He was very pleased to announce Leader Wheeler is on board and moving this to 2nd reading which shows how both parties have worked together to push this bill forward.

Link to House Amendment 001:

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=10200HB0219ham001&GA=102&SessionId=110&DocTypeId=HB&LegID=128087&DocNum=219&GAID=16&SpecSess=&Session=>

V. OFFICE MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Monti is working side by side with CRSA administration to ensure a smooth transition of her position to our new hire.

VI. CHANGING LIVES

CRSA regional coordinator Kristin Gharst reported on a resource barriers and CRSA's successful coordination of service delivery to a CRSA involved youth.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

CRSA Vacation, Sick and Personal Day policies were revised to align with the IL State Board of Education policies so we can transition into their electronic timekeeping system. These policies were approved on 1st Reading at the December Authority Meeting and now need to be approved for 2nd Reading at the April meeting so the policies can be adopted.

MOTION: *Dr. Constance Williams moved and Dr. Cesar Madrigal seconded that CRSA Vacation, Sick and Personal Day policies be approved with the suggested modification to align with ISBE's policies. The motion carried unanimously.*

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **FY 22 Meeting Schedules:** Schedules were mailed out prior to the April meeting for review. Chairperson Dr. Bloom asked the members if they saw any conflicts. None were mentioned so he requested a motion to approve.

MOTION: *Mr. Neal Takiff moved and Ms. Carie Johnstone seconded that CRSA FY 22 Meeting Schedules be approved. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. **Remote Office/Work from Home Policy:** Remote Office/Work from Home Policy was revised and sent out prior to the April meeting 1st Reading. The policy will be brought back for 2nd Reading and approval at the June meeting.

- C. **Draft Legislation:** Board member Neal Takiff J.D. suggested we direct our efforts toward changing our legislation assist state agencies with single case agreements with accredited mental health providers not yet on state agency preferred provider's lists. Youth with highly acute behavioral health needs requiring therapeutic residential treatment often have limited or no access to it due to behaviors that do not respond to established milieus. If they are admitted to treatment, they often have multiple premature and unsuccessful discharges. The public system's which fund youth therapeutic residential placements are often limited to proprietary lists within their respective agencies. This limits access to other treatment options if a youth is not eligible for admission to one of the preferred provider facilities. In addition to this issue, if youth have criminal histories, placing them residentially becomes even more problematic. Mr. Takiff submitted an amendment to the CRSA current legislation proposing or supporting legislation that will allow eligible youth to be placed into a certified therapeutic residential facility through the use of single case agreement with a residential provider who is not on an Illinois approved list. There were no objections so the amendment will seek a sponsor.
- D. **Selection of a Nominating Committee:** Chairperson Bloom requested volunteers to participate on the Nominating Committee. The requirements are to have at least one person from all three of the Authority categories to serve on Nominating Committee. This committee will choose a slate of officers for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. This will be voted on at the June Authority Meeting. Matt George (Legislative), Neal Takiff (Gubernatorial), Carie Johnstone (Legislative) and Mark Smith (State Agency) all volunteered. Office Manager, Mindy Monti will reach out to these individuals to schedule a meeting within next few weeks.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Executive Committee:** Chairperson Bloom commented on how impressed he was with the amount of communication and contacts CRSA staff have maintained during the pandemic.

X. AGENCY REPORTS

Healthcare and Family Services: Ms. Kristine Hermann reported an update on 1915i initiatives. She also acknowledged and reviewed the CRSA submitted the Unintended Consequences regarding rule change 135 to 139 affecting locally detained youth.

Department of Children and Family Services: Ms. Alicia Ozier: No Report

Office of Attorney General: Ms. Judith Levitan reported The Office of the Illinois Attorney General has been monitoring HB 219, the state restraint and seclusion bill, and appreciates the input provided by members of CRSA. At this time, the office has decided to take no position on the bill in its current incarnation. Rather, the AG is using his bully pulpit to advocate for federal

legislation on the matter. A federal baseline applicable to all states would eliminate the current patchwork of uneven laws and regulations. Of particular note to CRSA, a federal standard may also facilitate the placement of “hard to place” children in residential placements across state lines. A federal standard could strengthen protections for both students and school personnel, while potentially providing much needed financial assistance to the states in the form of federal grants.

Illinois State Board of Education: Ms. Abbey Storey reported
COVID Pandemic:

- ISBE and IDPH released a Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools joint guidance document on March 8, 2021 available in English and Spanish, as well as a corresponding Frequently Asked Questions document in English and Spanish.
- All ISBE Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates and Resources are available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/covid19.aspx>
- Submission to ISBE of any questions or concerns regarding the pandemic are requested to be sent to the established inbox of COVID19@isbe.net

Rules

- Emergency Proposed Amendments for 23 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC) Part 401 – 23 IAC 401.30(b)(4)
 - <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Proposed-Rules-and-Amendments.aspx>
 - <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/23-401RG-E.pdf>
 - Provides “If the State Superintendent determines the provider is demonstrating progress toward correcting instances of noncompliance that may substantially affect the safety of or the provision of appropriate education to students, and any continued instances of noncompliance do not constitute imminent danger, then the provider will be assigned a subsequent status of "Pending Further Review"
 - Being taken to the Board meeting for discussion April 21, 2021.
- Proposed Amendments to 23 IAC 405 for clarification being taken to the Board meeting for discussion April 21, 2021.

DHS, Division of Mental Health: Dr. Constance Williams reported:

As the Division of Mental Health (DMH) prepares for the new fiscal year, we are deep in the process of reviewing the NOFO applications submitted by our providers for the programs for next year.

DMH is planning for the implementation for a new, national, three-digit number for mental health crisis and suicide response that will be launched in all 50 US States, the District of Columbia, and all US Territories by July 16, 2022. To ensure the successful transition away from the current 10-digit 1-800 crisis number towards the new three-digit number, which will be 9-8-8, grant funding has been made available.

DHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities: Ms. Alicia Robinson: No report

Department of Juvenile Justice: Mr. Mark Smith reported DJJ: No report

DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services: Ms. Michelle Scott-Terven: No report

DHS, Division of Family and Community Services: Ms. Julie Stremlau: No report

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XII. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Cesar Madrigal addressed the board regarding IOP and partial hospitalization. Kristine Herman welcomed anything Dr. Madrigal could provide from his experience with adult services that might help her when addressing issues with youth.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Dr. Constance Williams moved and Dr. Cesar Madrigal moved and Mr. Mark Smith seconded that the Authority meeting be adjourned at 11:36 am. The motion carried unanimously.*